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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3204

September 18, 2007

The Honorable R. David Paulison
Undersecretary for Federal Emergency Management
Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency
United States Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Paulison:

I write to express my concern and disappointment that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has made the decision not to pre-deploy tractor trailers with disaster preparedness supplies to Long Island for this year's hurricane season. Nassau and Suffolk Counties have taken steps to prepare for a large hurricane and in recent years, FEMA has also assisted in this preparation by pre-deploying supplies to the region.

I understand that FEMA is working with the New York State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) on constructing a regional supply center in Middletown, New York that will play a critical role in the region's preparedness level. However, it is my understanding that this center is not yet online and ready to distribute supplies in the event that a hurricane hits Long Island this season.

I urge FEMA to provide the supplies to Long Island for the duration of the hurricane season as was done in 2006. As you know, Long Island is home to 2.8 million people and Nassau County is concerned that a storm will damage the infrastructure needed to bring supplies to the region, leaving residents without the support from FEMA.

I urge FEMA to reverse the notion that Long Island is not an isolated area given the number of residents and the infrastructure necessary to bring supplies to the region after a storm and I urge FEMA to reverse its decision not to pre-deploy the supplies as done in previous years.

Sincerely yours,



Hillary Rodham Clinton